

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINSHA 08607 081604Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
FAA-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 USSS-00 PPT-01 CA-01
OC-06 CCO-00 /105 W
-----014782 082334Z /63

R 081525Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5670
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8607

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, OTRA, US, CG, CPRS
SUBJECT: INCIDENT ON ETHIOPIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 784

1. MS. STEPHANIE SIMMONS, A BRITISH NATIONAL EMPLOYEE OF OXFAM
ZAIRE WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US EMBASSY MEMBERS,
REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AUGUST 26 ABROAD
FLIGHT EL-784 ENROUTE FROM ADDIS ABABA TO KIGALI:

2. WHILE TRANSITING UGANDAN AIRSPACE THE PILOT ANNOUNCED THAT
THE PLANE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY UGANDAN RADIO THAT IT MUST LAND
AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT. AFTER LANDING THE PLANE WAS SURROUNDED BY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINSHA 08607 081604Z

SOLDIERS WITH MACHINE GUNS. FIVE SOLDIERS WITH GUNS CAME ABOARD
THE PLANE AND INSTRUCTED ALL PASSENGERS TO REMAIN SEATED BUT
TOOK AWAY THE CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER OF THE PLANE. AFTER
APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF THE SOLDIERS RETURNED WITH
THE ETHIOPIAN CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER AND THEN INTERROGATED
ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT MS. SIMMONS AND THE ONLY OTHER WESTERN PASSENGER
ABOARD THE PLANE, A CAUCASIAN MALE WHOM MS. SIMMONS BELIEVED TO

BE OF FRENCH NATIONALITY. BOTH MS. SIMMONS AND THE FRENCHMAN WERE QUESTIONED REPEATEDLY BY THE SOLDIERS AS TO THEIR NATIONALITY AND AS TO WHETHER THEY HAD A SECOND PASSPORT. AFTER THE SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED THAT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE THEY WITHDREW AND THE PLANE WAS PERMITTED TO PROCEED. LATER, THE ETHIOPIAN CAPTAIN TOLD MS. SIMMONS THAT HE HAD BEEN INTERROGATED INTENSIVELY AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ISRAELIS ABOARD THE PLANE. IF SO, THE CAPTAIN SAID, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY THE UGANDAN MILITARY.

3. FLIGHT ET-784 FROM ADDIS ABABA TO KIGALI AND KINSHASA AND RETURN DOES NOT MAKE SCHEDULED STOPS AT ENTEBBE BUT DOES TRANSIT UGANDAN AIRSPACE. AIR ZAIRE FLIGHTS QC-060 FROM KINSHASA TO DAR ES SALAAM EVERY WEDNESDAY AND QC-061 FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO KINSHASA EVERY THURSDAY DO MAKE SCHEDULED STOPS AT ENTEBBE. IN ADDITION, AIR ZAIRE FREQUENTLY MAKES UNSCHEDULED STOPS AT ENTEBBE. IN VIEW OF ABOVE INCIDENT THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO DISSEMINATE WARNINGS TO TRAVELERS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL IN THE AREA.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN KINSHASA ALSO PLANS TO REPORT ABOVE INCIDENT AND TO REQUEST ACTION BY BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTRY.
DECONTROL 12/31/81
CULTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA08607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-0201
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770987/aaaacvgq.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1872aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1350931
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT ON ETHIOPIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 784
TAGS: EAIR, OTRA, CPRS, US, CG, UG, UK, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1872aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009